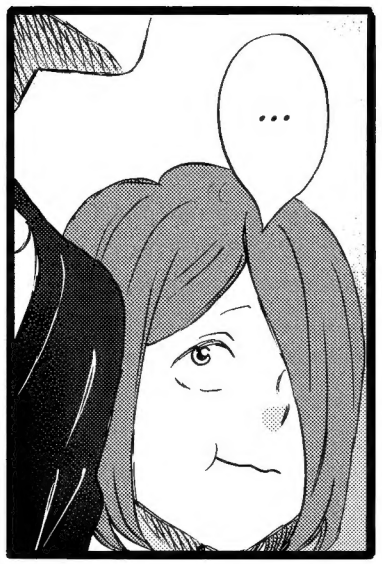
THANKS FOR THE FOOD.
THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD.
THANK YOU!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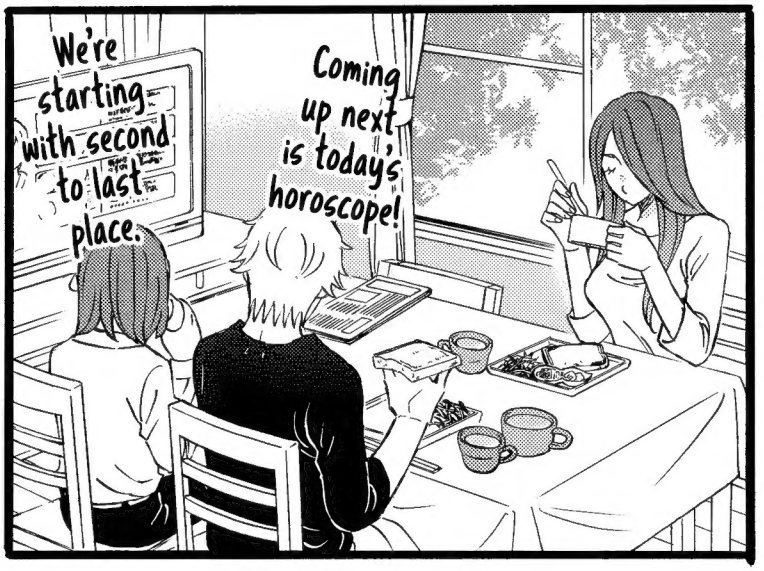
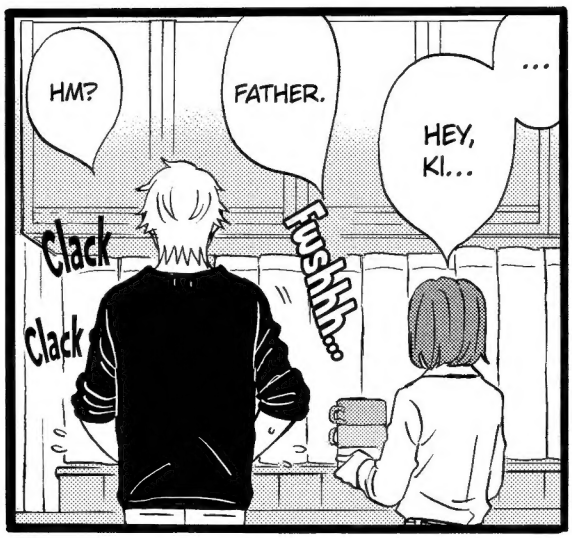

We're starting with second to last place.
Coming up next is today's horoscope!

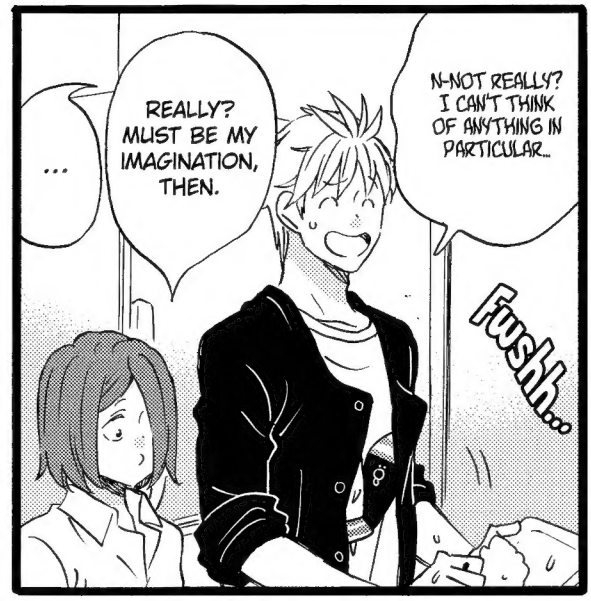

HM?
FATHER.
...
HEY, KI...
Clack
Clack
Fushhh...

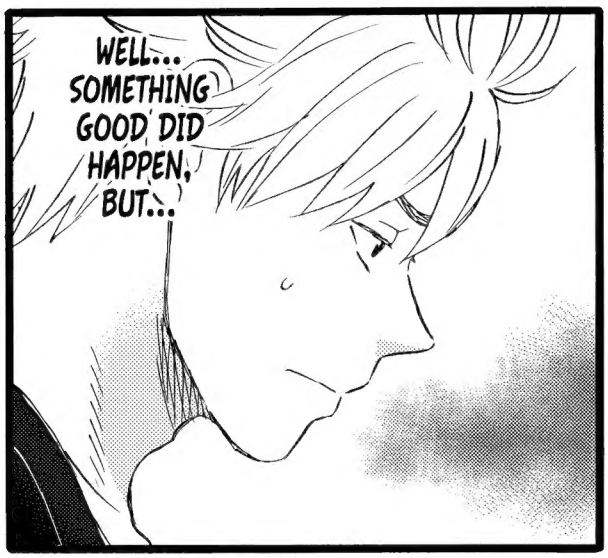
IT WAS DELICIOUS. THANK YOU!

...
Fushhh...

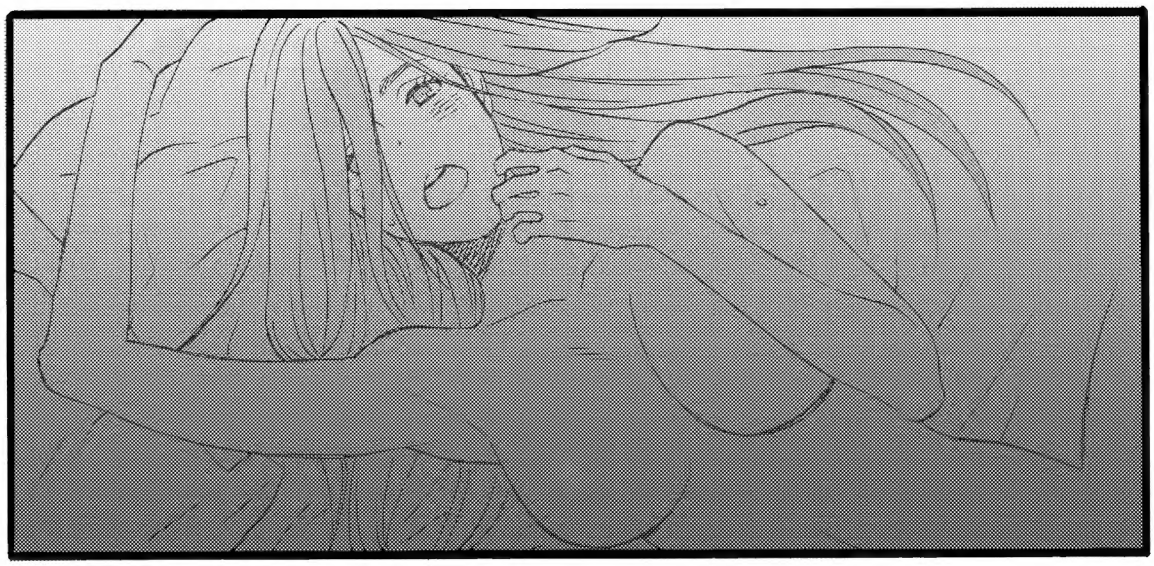
HUH?!
DID SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN?
YOU'VE GOT A BIG SMILE ON YOUR FACE.

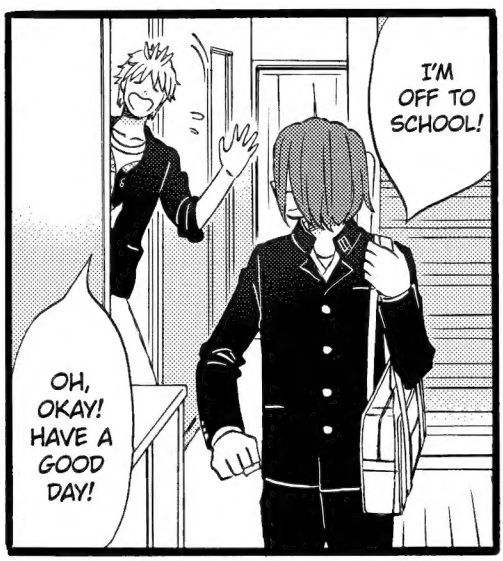
OKAAAY!
I'LL WASH THE DISHES. YOU SHOULD GET GOING.
ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME TO HEAD TO SCHOOL?
Thmp


...
REALLY? MUST BE MY IMAGINATION, THEN.
N-NOT REALLY? I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR...
Fushh...

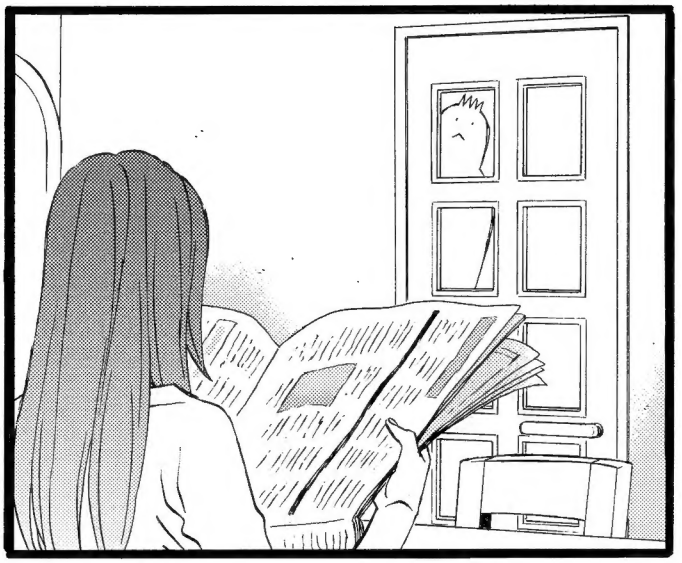

WELL... SOMETHING GOOD DID HAPPEN, BUT...

...
TMP
TMP

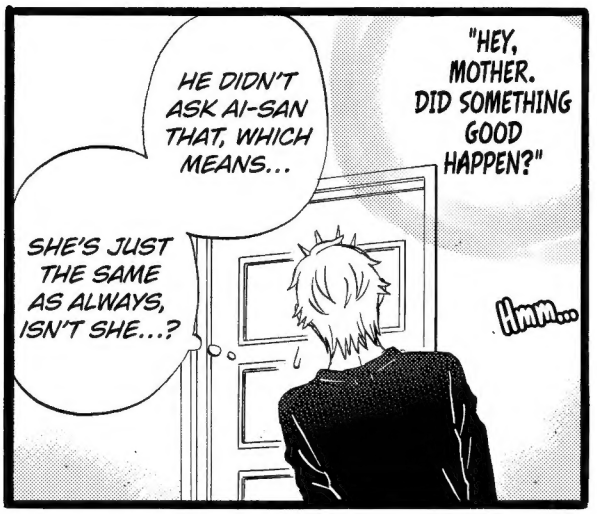


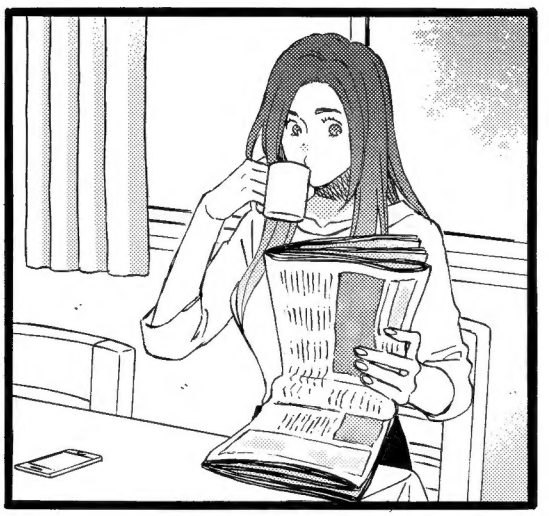

I'M OFF TO SCHOOL!
OH, OKAY! HAVE A GOOD DAY!

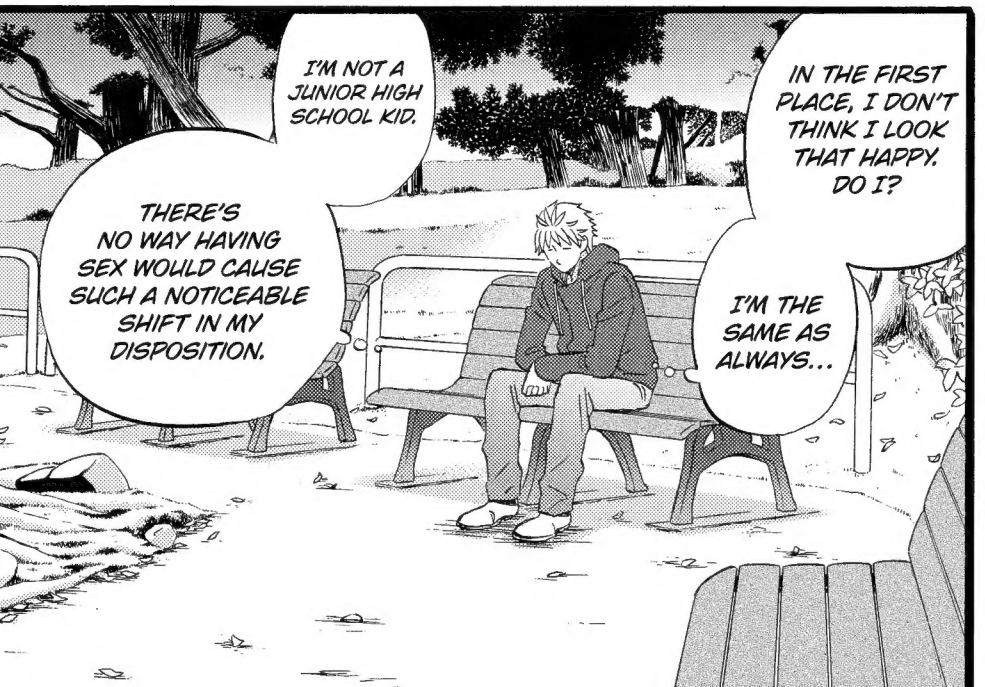
AM I THAT EASY TO READ?!
NO, NO, NO... IS IT REALLY THAT OBVIOUS THAT I'M HAPPY BECAUSE I'M FINALLY HAVING SEX?



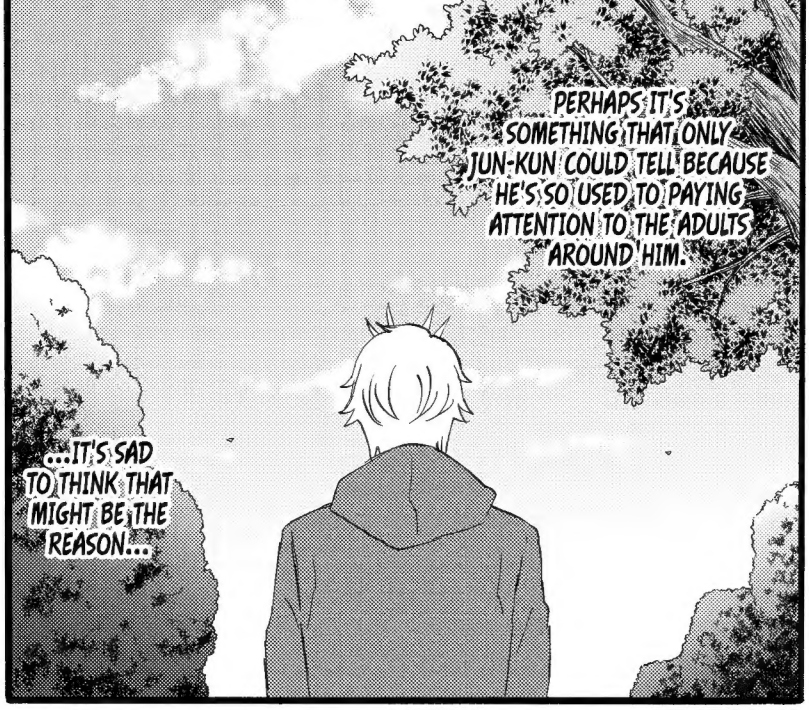
TAKE CARE!


"HEY, MOTHER. DID SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN?"
HE DIDN'T ASK AI-SAN THAT, WHICH MEANS...
SHE'S JUST THE SAME AS ALWAYS, ISN'T SHE...?
Hmm...



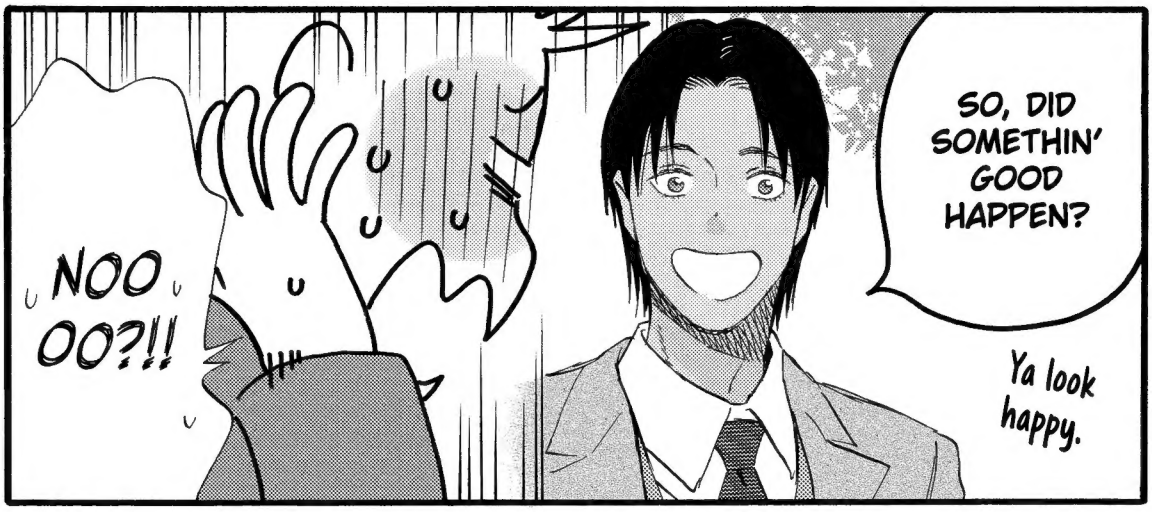

I'M NOT A JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL KID.
THERE'S NO WAY HAVING SEX WOULD CAUSE SUCH A NOTICEABLE SHIFT IN MY DISPOSITION.
IN THE FIRST PLACE, I DON'T THINK I LOOK THAT HAPPY. DO I?
I'M THE SAME AS ALWAYS...

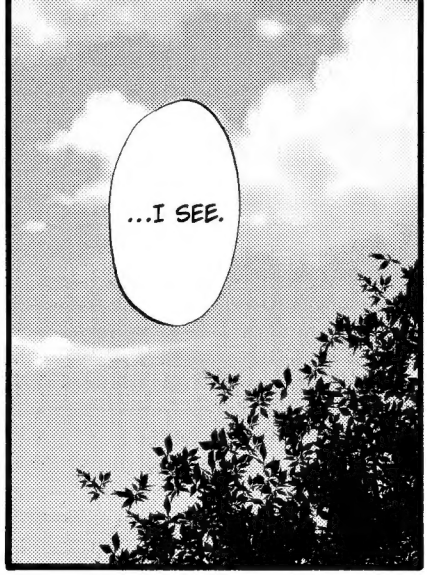
I MEAN...

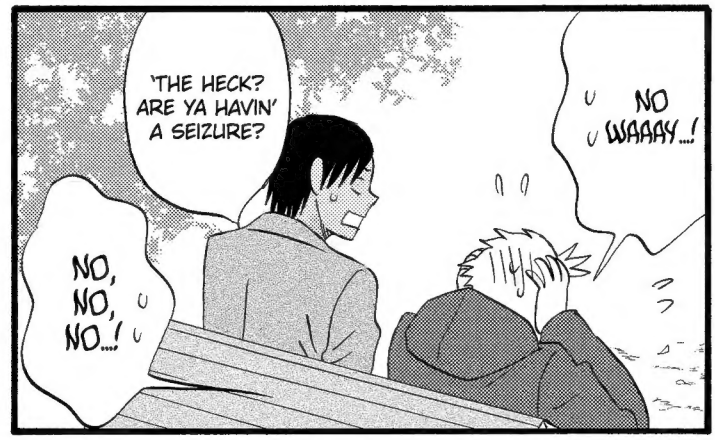

PERHAPS IT'S SOMETHING THAT ONLY JUN-KUN COULD TELL BECAUSE HE'S SO USED TO PAYING ATTENTION TO THE ADULTS AROUND HIM.
...IT'S SAD TO THINK THAT MIGHT BE THE REASON...

PHEEEW...
Thud

HEY...
YO! KIRISHIMA!


SO, DID SOMETHIN' GOOD HAPPEN?
Ya look happy.
NOO OO?!!


...I SEE.


'THE HECK? ARE YA HAVIN' A SEIZURE?
NO WAAAY...!
NO, NO, NO...!

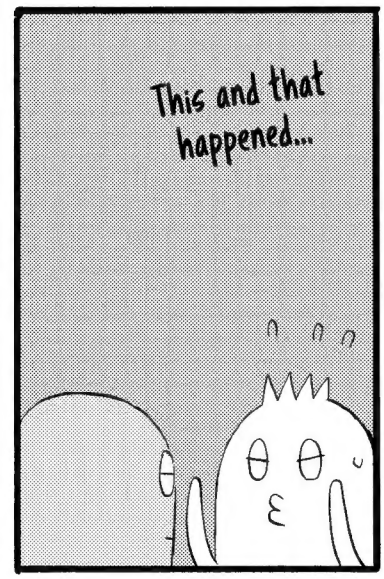
AIN'T IT GREAT NEWS, THOUGH? YA HAVE FINALLY DONE WITH AI-CHAN.
YEAH. IT SURE IS...
Heh heh...

YA FINALLY HAD SEX, AND YOU'VE BEEN LOOKIN' HAPPY EVER SINCE...
Ha ha ha!
WRONG! I MEAN... YOU'RE CORRECT, BUT IT'S NOT QUITE LIKE THAT...!
AND IT'S SUCH AN OBVIOUS CHANGE THAT EVEN A CHILD WAS ABLE TO NOTICE.
'THE HECK DO YA MEAN? GEEZ...

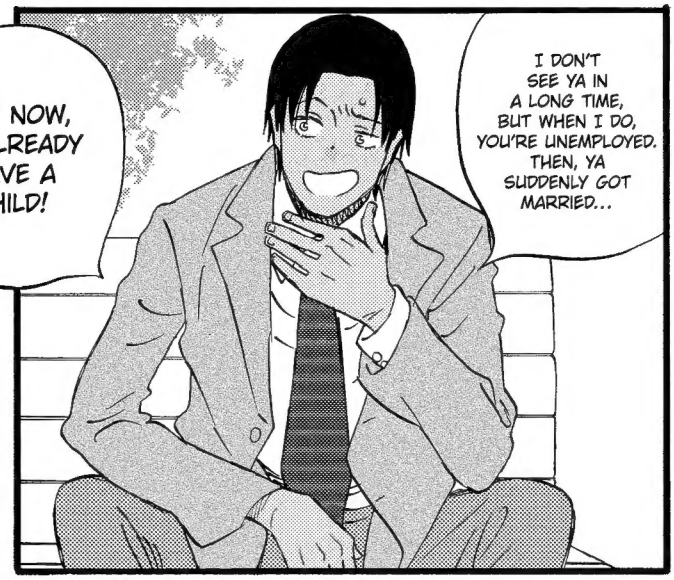
HEY... WHEN DID YA BECOME A DAD?
HUH?

ACTUALLY, I'M MORE CURIOUS 'BOUT SOMETHIN' ELSE YA SAID.
HM?

SIIIIGH...
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO SAY...
YOU'RE MOVIN' WAY TOO FAST, MAN...

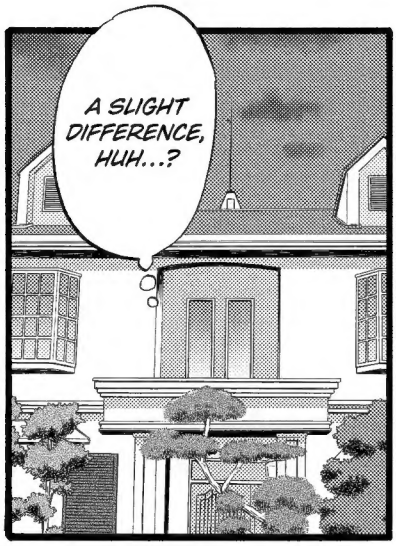

This and that happened...

WELL... I'VE BEEN SO BUSY LATELY I HAVEN'T HAD THE CHANCE TO TALK TO YOU...
AND NOW, YA ALREADY HAVE A CHILD!

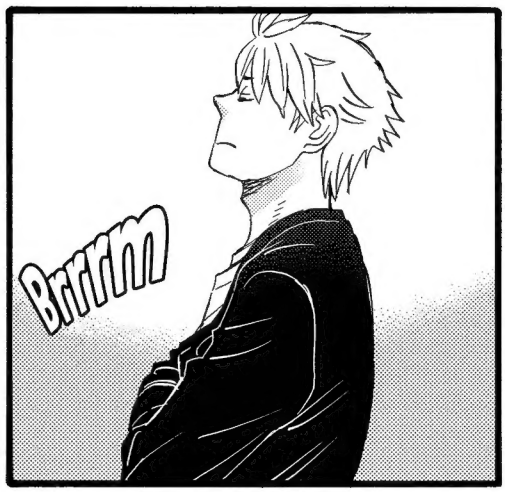

I DON'T SEE YA IN A LONG TIME, BUT WHEN I DO, YOU'RE UNEMPLOYED. THEN, YA SUDDENLY GOT MARRIED...

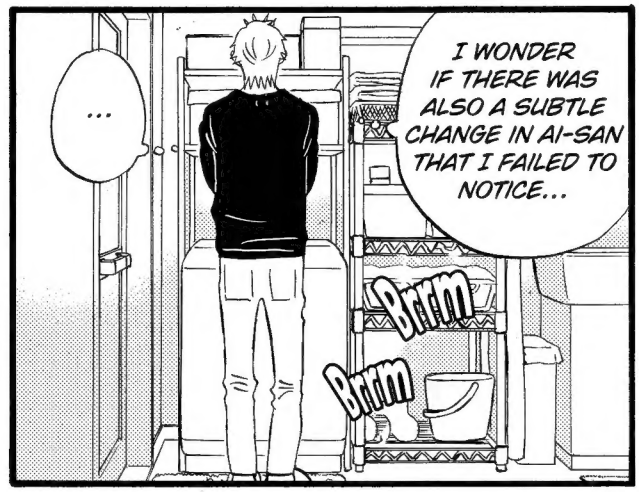
IT WOULD ALSO BE THE END OF THIS STORY, SO LET'S HOPE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN!
EVEN FOR ME, THAT'S WAY TOO FAST!
NEXT TIME WE MEET, IT'LL PROBABLY BE AT YOUR FUNERAL!
Smile

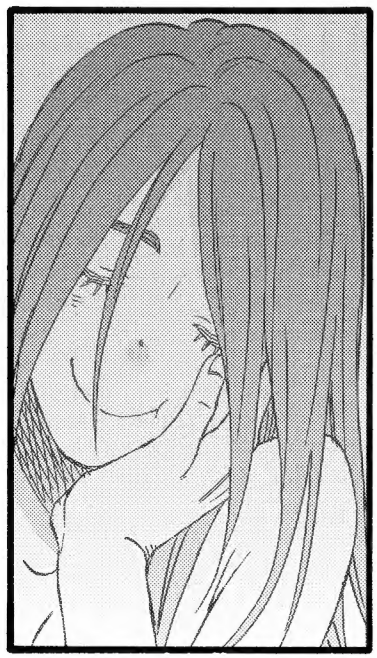
To show it so much on my face...
YOU THINK SO? BUT ISN'T IT KIND OF EMBARRASSING?
STILL... YA DON'T HAVE TO BE SO SELF-CONSCIOUS.
IT'S ONLY A SLIGHT DIFFERENCE. MOST PEOPLE WON'T EVEN NOTICE.
SURE YA DO. YA LOOK LIKE A HAMSTER.
ANYWAY, DO I REALLY LOOK THAT HAPPY TO YOU?
SHIIIIIT! SO I'M FREAKING ADORABLE!
YA GOTTA HAVE AN INTEREST IN HOW THEY'RE FEELIN'.
EVEN IF YA LIVE TOGETHER, IT'S SOMETHIN' YOU WON'T NOTICE UNLESS YOU'RE PAYIN' CLOSE ATTENTION TO THAT PERSON'S EXPRESSIONS...
THAT JUN-KUN MUST BE REALLY ATTACHED TO YA.
...
HUH...? WELL, DUH, WE'RE FRIENDS. I DON'T HATE YA.
DO YOU LIKE ME?
OH? THEN HOW COME YOU ALSO NOTICED SUCH A SMALL CHANGE, KIKUCHI?
I SEE...
IT'S REALLY NICE THAT THE KID LIKES YA.
Heh heh heh...

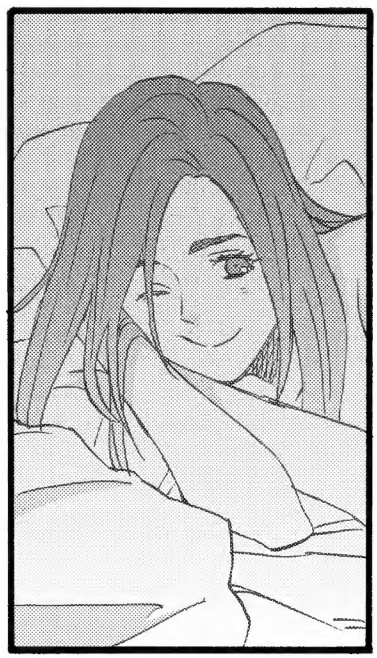

A SLIGHT DIFFERENCE, HUH...?

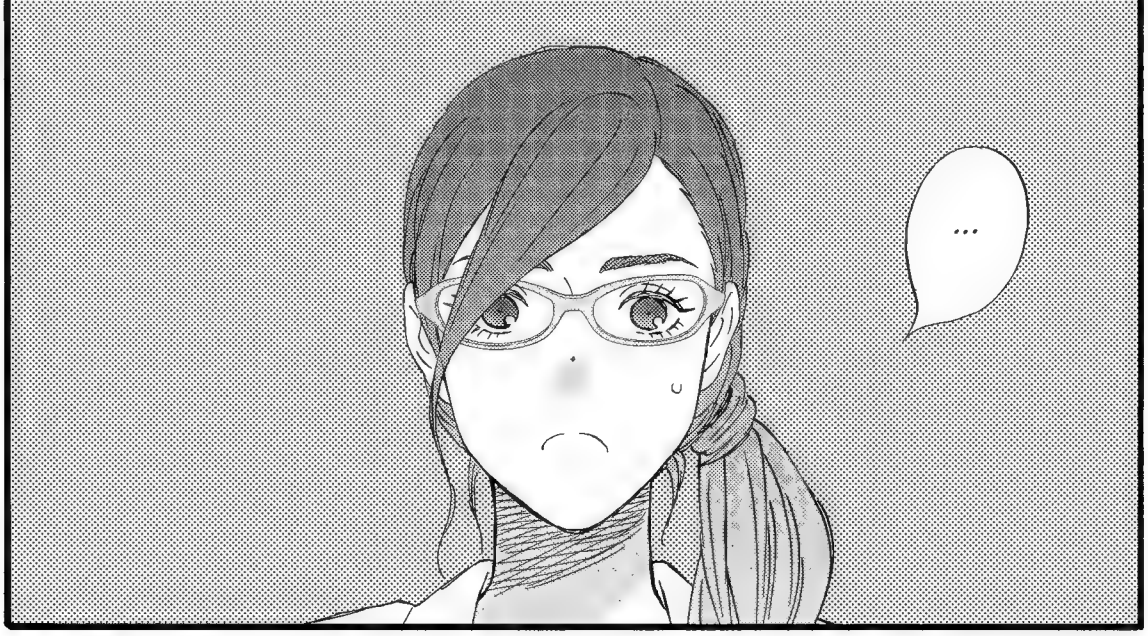
YEAH... NEXT TIME WE MEET WILL DEFINITELY BE AT YOUR FUNERAL!
It feels... kinda disgusting...
HAVE WE ALWAYS BEEN SUCH GOOD FRIENDS?


Brrrm


...
I WONDER IF THERE WAS ALSO A SUBTLE CHANGE IN AI-SAN THAT I FAILED TO NOTICE...
Brrm
Brrm



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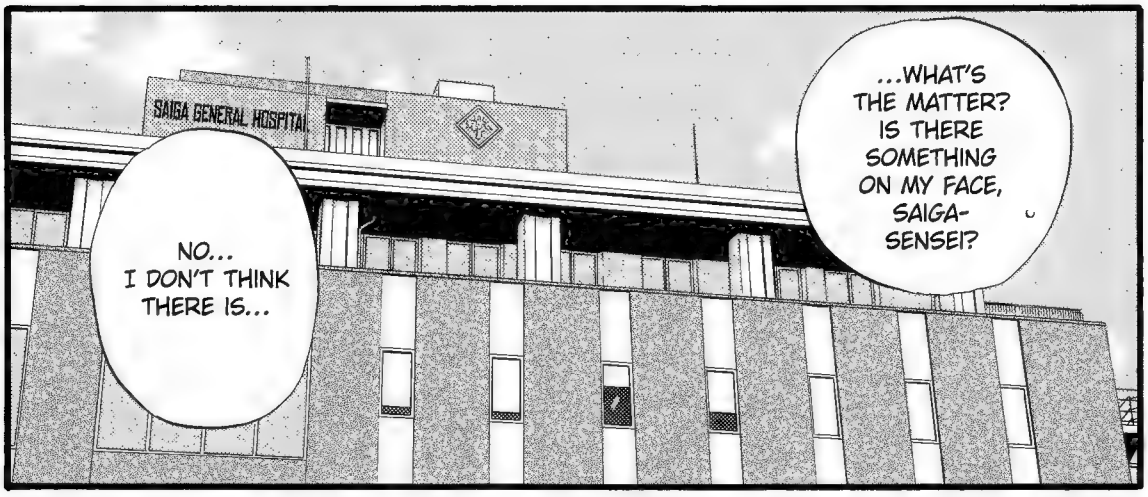
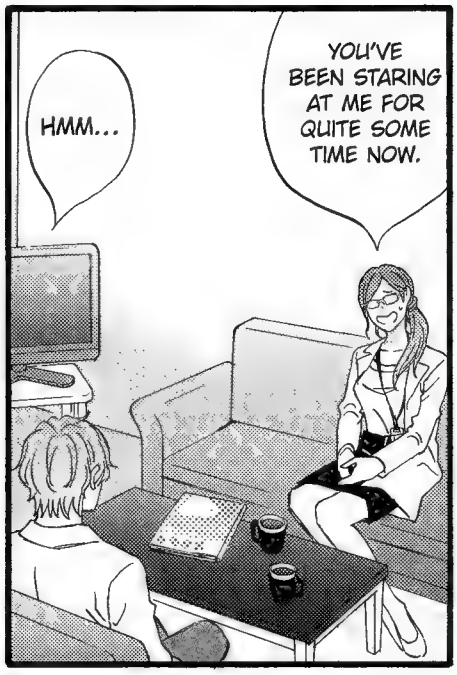
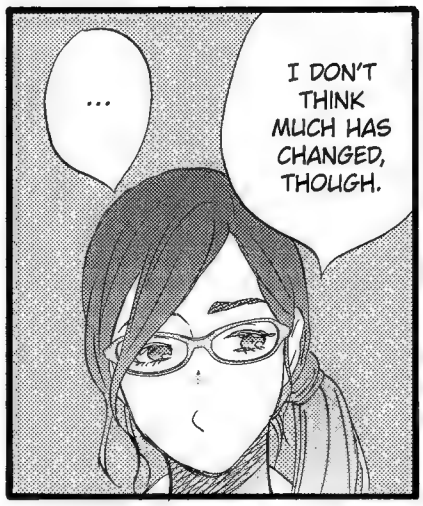

SAIGA GENERAL HOSPITAL
...WHAT'S THE MATTER? IS THERE SOMETHING ON MY FACE, SAIGA-SENSEI?
NO... I DON'T THINK THERE IS...

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN, ISHIMURA-SENSEI?
WHAT...? NO, I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING.
RECENTLY, I'VE NOTICED THAT THE ATMOSPHERE AROUND YOU HAS ONCE AGAIN CHANGED.
AGAIN?!

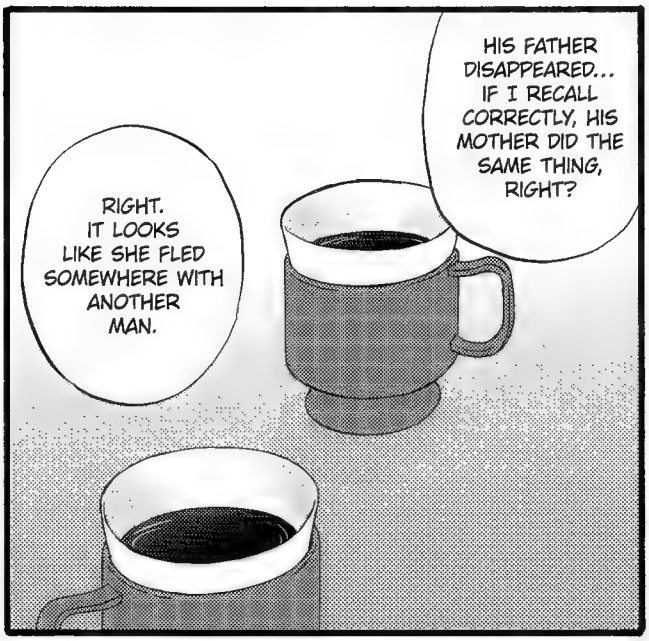

YOU'VE BEEN STARING AT ME FOR QUITE SOME TIME NOW.
HMM...

THAT'S... WHAT I WOULD CALL A VERY IMPORTANT AND NOTICEABLE CHANGE.
Hmm...
AT LEAST, NOT SINCE WE ADOPTED MIYAKE AS OUR CHILD...

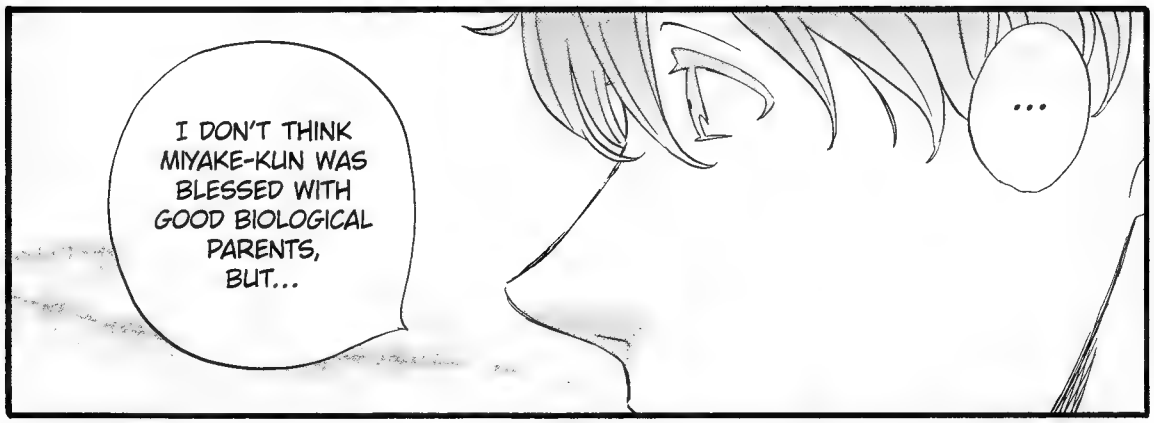

...
I DON'T THINK MUCH HAS CHANGED, THOUGH.

I SEE. YOU ENDED UP ADOPTING HIM.
THAT'S RIGHT. HIS FATHER DISAPPEARED, SO WE TOOK HIM IN.
I'VE BEEN A MOTHER FOR A WHILE NOW.
INDEED. IT SURPRISES ME HOW THAT'S SUCH A HEAVY STORY, BUT YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL AT ALL.
Pretty surprising, right?!

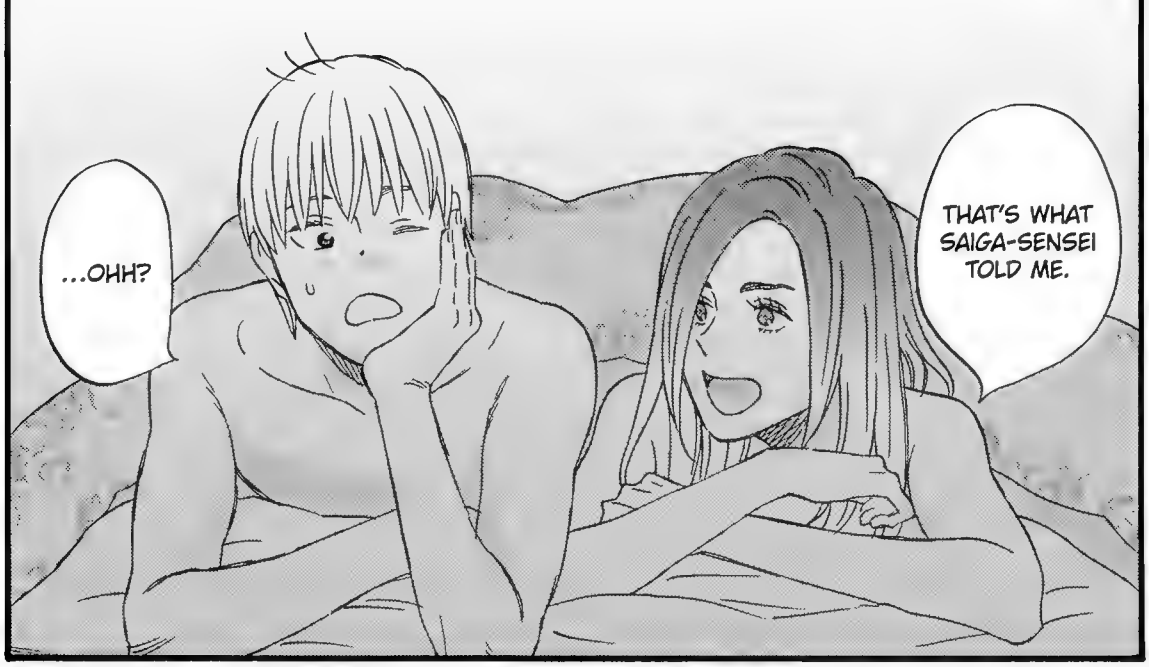
POOR THING... IT MUST'VE BEEN QUITE THE SHOCK FOR HIM.
YEAH. I THINK SO TOO.

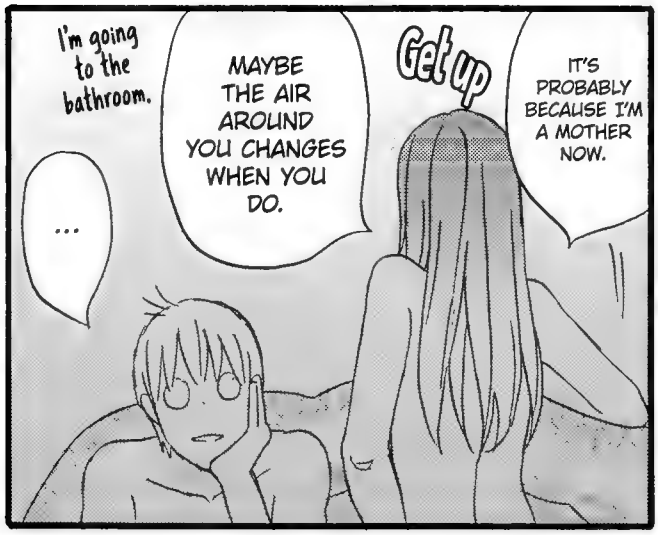

HIS FATHER DISAPPEARED... IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, HIS MOTHER DID THE SAME THING, RIGHT?
RIGHT. IT LOOKS LIKE SHE FLED SOMEWHERE WITH ANOTHER MAN.

IT WOULD BE GREAT IF HE COULD FIND SOME SOLACE BY STAYING WITH US.
HE SEEMS TO BE LIVING AN ORDINARY, HAPPY LIFE NOW, BUT I KNOW THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF WOUND THAT HEALS EASILY.

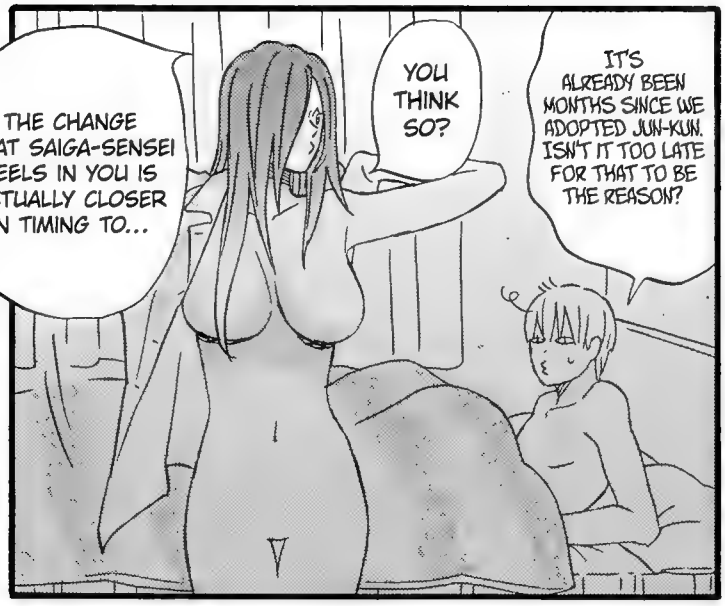

I DON'T THINK MIYAKE-KUN WAS BLESSED WITH GOOD BIOLOGICAL PARENTS, BUT...
...

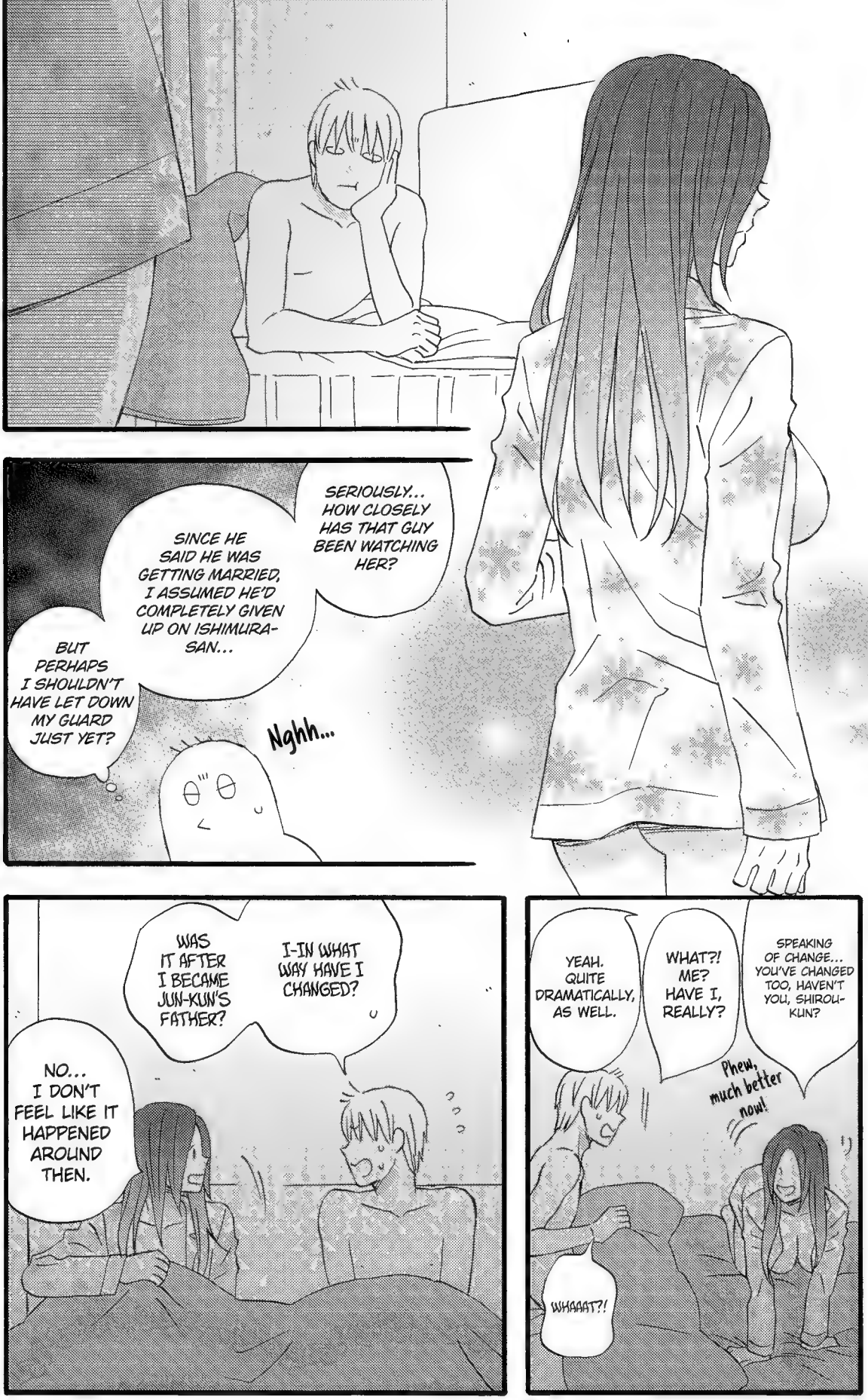
I BELIEVE HE WAS FORTUNATE TO FIND A WONDERFUL FAMILY.
...SO...


...OHH?
THAT'S WHAT SAIGA-SENSEI TOLD ME.


I'm going to the bathroom.
...
MAYBE THE AIR AROUND YOU CHANGES WHEN YOU DO.
Get up
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE I'M A MOTHER NOW.

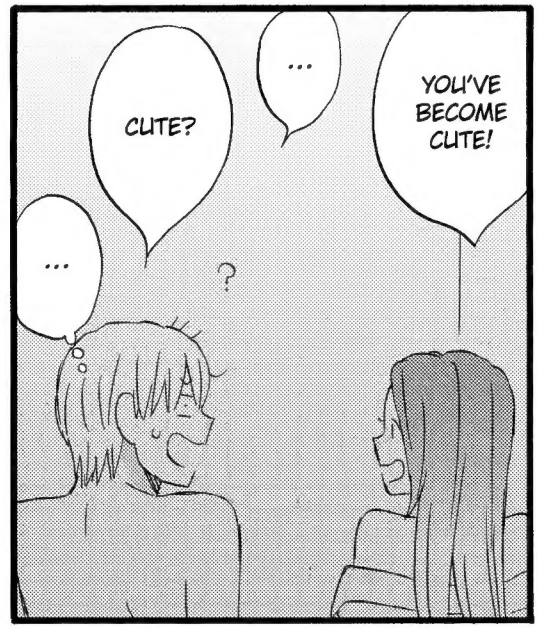
...HE SAID THAT THE ATMOSPHERE AROUND YOU HAS CHANGED?
YEAH...


THE CHANGE THAT SAIGA-SENSEI FEELS IN YOU IS ACTUALLY CLOSER IN TIMING TO...
YOU THINK SO?
IT'S ALREADY BEEN MONTHS SINCE WE ADOPTED JUN-KUN. ISN'T IT TOO LATE FOR THAT TO BE THE REASON?

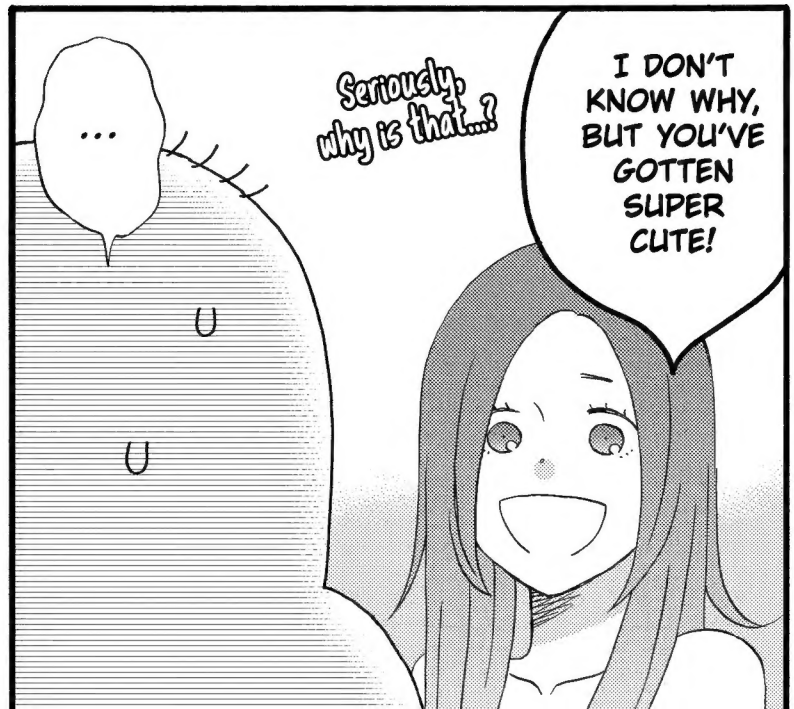

SERIOUSLY... HOW CLOSELY HAS THAT GUY BEEN WATCHING HER?
SINCE HE SAID HE WAS GETTING MARRIED, I ASSUMED HE'D COMPLETELY GIVEN UP ON ISHIMURA-SAN...
BUT PERHAPS I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET DOWN MY GUARD JUST YET?
Nghh...
I-IN WHAT WAY HAVE I CHANGED?
WAS IT AFTER I BECAME JUN-KUN'S FATHER?
NO... I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT HAPPENED AROUND THEN.
SPEAKING OF CHANGE... YOU'VE CHANGED TOO, HAVEN'T YOU, SHIROU-KUN?
WHAT?! ME? HAVE I, REALLY?
YEAH. QUITE DRAMATICALLY, AS WELL.
Phew, much better now!
WHAAAT?!

TO PUT IT IN A FEW WORDS...
AFTER WE FINALLY HAD SEX, I REALLY STARTED ACTING LIKE A HAPPY FOOL...
WHOA... I KNEW IT!
I THINK YOU'VE CHANGED FAIRLY RECENTLY, SHIROU-KUN.

IT'S SIMPLER THAN THAT...
WHY A HAMSTER? ANYWAY, I DON'T MEAN THAT YOU ALWAYS LOOK LIKE YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD OR ANYTHING...
YOU MEAN LIKE A HAMSTER?


...
CUTE?
...
?
YOU'VE BECOME CUTE!

DOES THAT MEAN...


...
Seriously, why is that...?
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT YOU'VE GOTTEN SUPER CUTE!

THE ALWAYS COOL AND DISTANT AI-SAN IS FEELING THE SAME WAY AS ME...?

I WANT TO BELIEVE THAT'S THE CASE, BUT...

IS SHE ALSO IN THAT EARLY STAGE OF LOVE...?!!

SHE'S LOOKING AT ME THROUGH THE SAME CUTE, HAPPY FILTER...?

WHAT THE HECK? NEVERMIND BEING A REGULAR MARRIED COUPLE. WE'LL BE ONE OF THOSE SILLY DUMB COUPLES INSTEAD!

No, you are!

You're cute!

Heh heh heh!

Heh heh heh!

YOU LOOK SUPER CUTE...

HER FEELINGS ARE TOO SIMILAR TO MINE...

LIKE, "SUPER CUTE"... REALLY? SHOULDN'T I LOOK "COOL" INSTEAD?

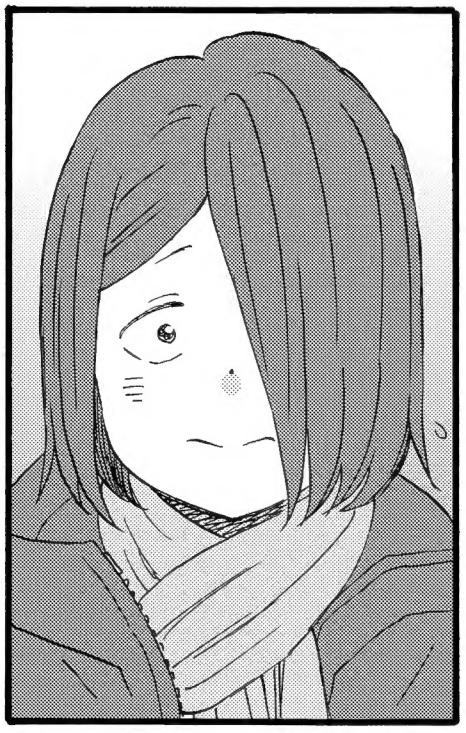
MY LIFE ALSO CHANGED DRAMATICALLY AFTER MEETING AI-SAN.

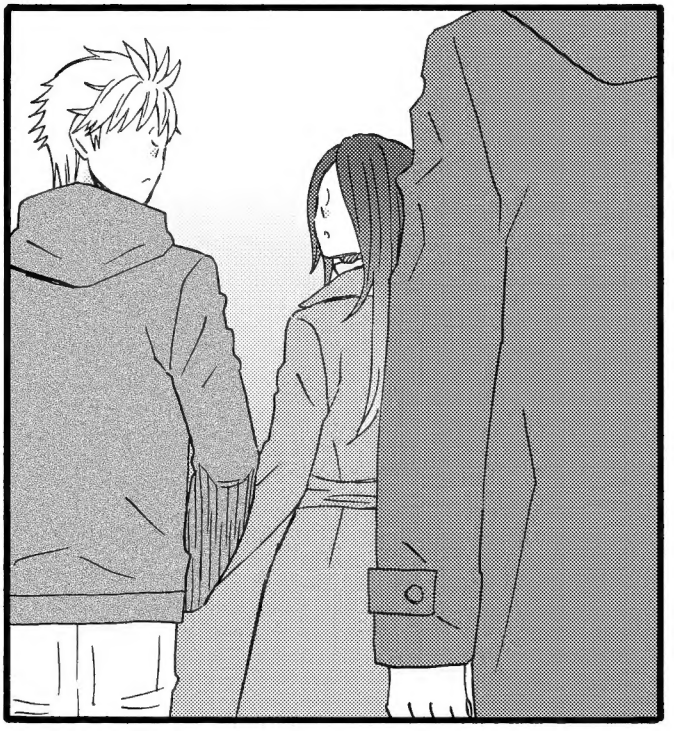
AT FIRST GLANCE, AI-SAN DOESN'T APPEAR TO HAVE CHANGED, BUT THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE INDEED.

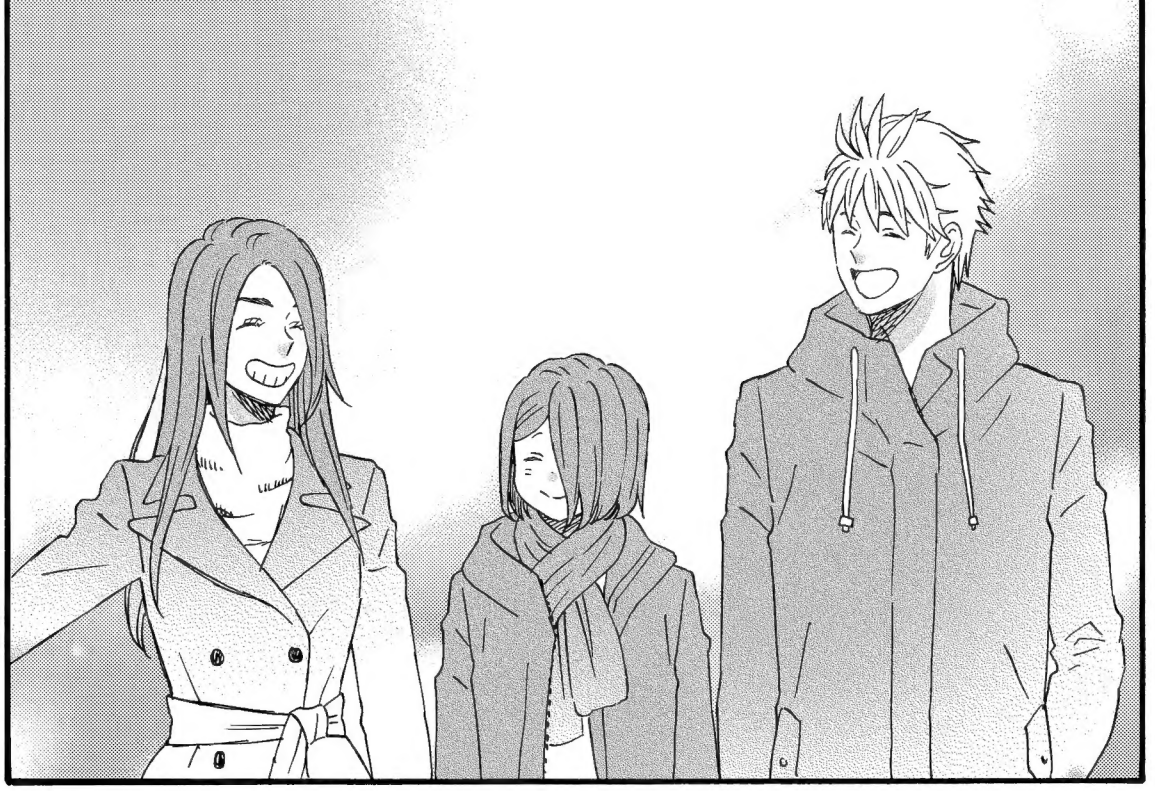
AS A RESULT OF HER INFLUENCE, I ALWAYS ASSUMED THAT I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS CHANGING, BUT...

It's time for us to sleep...

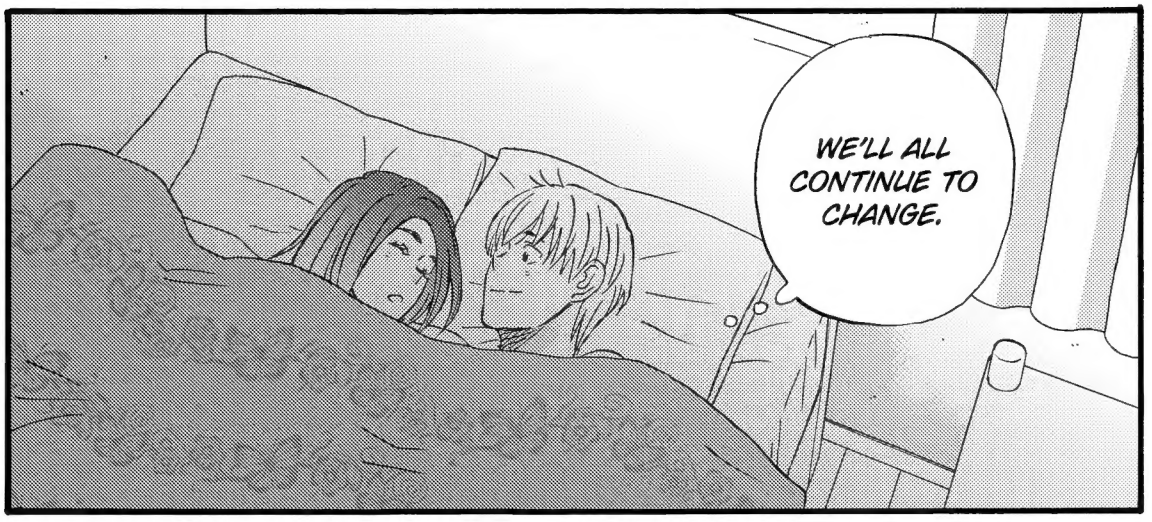
WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER FOR A LONG TIME. IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT THE OPPOSITE WOULD ALSO HAPPEN.







I'M SURE THAT IN THE FUTURE...

NOW THAT AI-SAN AND I HAVE BECOME A FAMILY OF THREE WITH JUN-KUN...

AND, SIMILARLY TO HOW I AND AI-SAN HAVE INFLUENCED EACH OTHER...